

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the bipartisan fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill becoming law, I am proud to have secured over \$10 million to fund 10 projects in communities across northern Illinois.

These essential projects will reduce wait times for mental healthcare, upgrade infrastructure to ensure clean water, make college more affordable and accessible, support foster youth and families, and strengthen local emergency response and community safety.

Last summer, I visited many of the organizations that sponsor these projects to learn more about how these funds will impact Illinoisans. Independence Health & Therapy will receive \$60,000 to expand tele-psychiatry hours and reduce wait times for mental health services in McHenry County.

The DeKalb County Regional Office of Education will receive \$150,000 to expand the work of the DeKalb County Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative and provide quality early learning opportunities to residents of Sandwich, Sycamore, and Hinckley.

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission will receive nearly \$1.4 million to prevent impending dam failure of the Sylvan Lake Dam and protect nearly 500 homes from flooding and damage.

The Kendall County CASA Program will receive \$200,000 to establish a CASA clubhouse which will serve the growing foster youth population by providing a free, safe location for families to meet during court-ordered visitation.

McHenry County College will receive \$825,000 to expand dual credit and dual degree programs, offering low-cost college credits to high schoolers across McHenry County.

The Wauconda Fire Protection District will receive \$36,000 to replace a 28-year-old natural gas emergency backup generator to power the fire station's emergency operations center, which provides essential services to the 40,000 residents in Lake and McHenry Counties.

And over \$7.5 million is being directed to critical water infrastructure projects to ensure safe, clean, and sustainable drinking water for residents of Joliet, Pingree Grove, and Richmond.

From day one, I have worked hard to bring the voices of the 14th District to Congress. And as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I will continue to ensure that our communities' priorities are reflected within Federal funding.

These projects will create jobs and improve the well-being of our communities, and I am so proud to deliver this \$10.5 million investment to my constituents.

This month, the House passed the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act which would expand healthcare for 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and an original co-sponsor

of the bill, I am proud to champion this historic legislation.

Simply put, the Honoring our PACT Act is a full accounting for the true cost of war. When our servicemembers signed up to defend our country and our freedoms, we made a promise to care for them when they returned home. For too long, we failed to keep that promise.

By passing this bill, we are upholding our end of the pact and ensuring every veteran has access to the care they deserve.

The Senate must pass this comprehensive toxic exposure legislation swiftly. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The following proceedings were held in the Capitol Visitor Center before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER. Good morning. Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Madam Ambassador, who is with us this morning, Madam Ambassador Markarova.

Mr. President, it is my honor to present to you the Congress of the United States, which has great respect and admiration and appreciation for your courageous leadership.

Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and distinct honor of presenting to you the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

My colleagues, Slava Ukraini. Glory to Heroes.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President ZELENSKYY (Speaking in Ukrainian). Thank you very much. Madam Speaker, Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, Americans, friends, I am proud to greet you from Ukraine, from our capital city of Kyiv, a city that is under missile and airstrikes from Russian troops every day, but it doesn't give up. And we have not even thought about it for a second, just like many other cities and communities in our beautiful country which found themselves in the worst war since World War II.

I have the honor to greet you on behalf of the Ukrainian people, brave and freedom-loving people who, for 8 years, have been resisting the Russian aggression; those who give their best sons and daughters to stop this full-scale Russian invasion.

Right now, the destiny of our country is being decided, the destiny of our people, whether Ukrainians will be free, whether they will be able to preserve their democracy.

Russia has attacked not just us, not just our land, not just our cities. It went on a brutal offensive against our values, basic human values.

It threw tanks and planes against our freedom, against our right to live freely in our own country, choosing our own future; against our desire for happiness; against our national dreams, just like the same dreams you have, you, Americans, just like anyone else in the United States.

I remember your national memorial at Mount Rushmore, the faces of your prominent Presidents, those who laid the foundation of the United States of America as it is today: democracy; independence; freedom; and care for everyone, for every person, for everyone who works diligently, who lives honestly, who respects the law. We in Ukraine want the same for our people. All that is a normal part of your own life.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Americans: In your great history, you have pages that would allow you to understand Ukrainians. Understand us now, when we need you right now.

Remember Pearl Harbor, the terrible morning of December 7, 1941, when your sky was black from the planes attacking you. Just remember it.

Remember September 11, a terrible day in 2001 when evil tried to turn your cities and independent territories into battlefields, when innocent people were attacked from the air, yes. Just like nobody else expected it, you could not stop it.

Our country experiences the same every day. Right now, at this moment, every night for 3 weeks now, in various Ukrainian cities: Odessa, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsya, Mariupol, and Dnipro. Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people.

Russian troops have already fired nearly 1,000 missiles at Ukraine, countless bombs. They use drones to kill us with precision. This is a terror that Europe has not seen for 80 years, and we are asking for a reply, for an answer to this terror from the whole world.

Is this a lot to ask for, to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to save people? Is this too much to ask, a humanitarian no-fly zone, something that Russia would not be able to terrorize our free cities?

If this is too much to ask, we offer an alternative. You know what kind of defense systems we need, S-300 and other similar systems. You know how much depends on the battlefield, on the ability to use aircraft, powerful, strong aviation to protect our people, our freedom, our land, aircraft that can help Ukraine help Europe. And you know that they exist, and you have them, but they are on Earth, not in the Ukrainian sky. They do not defend our people.